AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (original): A contents retrieval system comprising:

retrieval request receiving means for receiving a retrieval request of contents on a communication network from a user accessing through the communication network, and setting up processing conditions for retrieval processing in accordance with the retrieval request, and further issuing a reservation number of the retrieval processing and informing the user of the reservation number, and in addition applying the reservation number to the processing conditions and registering the same with a predetermined retrieval management table;

contents retrieval means for retrieving the contents on the communication network in accordance with the processing conditions registered with said retrieval management table and storing the retrieval result, together with the reservation number, in a predetermined retrieval result storage file; and

retrieval result providing means for retrieving a retrieval result associated with the reservation number from among the retrieval results stored in said retrieval result storage file, when an inquiry concerning the retrieval result is made from a user based on the reservation number, and providing the retrieval result for the user.

2.   (original): A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein said

retrieval request receiving means sets up as to whether there is a need to display a retrieval result

as one of the processing conditions in form of a thumb-nail image, so that the set up result is

registered with said retrieval management table, and

said contents retrieval means creates the thumb-nail image and stores the thumb-nail

image in a predetermined image storage file in the event that the thumb-nail image is needed in

accordance with the set up result as to whether there is a need to display the thumb-nail image

registered with said retrieval management table.

3.   (currently amended): A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein

said retrieval request receiving means sets up as to whether there is a need to inform a user by an

electronic mail of the fact that a retrieval result is obtained at the time point when the retrieval

result as one of the processing conditions is obtained by said contents retrieval means, so that the

set up result is registered with said retrieval management table, and

said contents retrieval means 12 informs the user by an electronic mail of the fact that the

retrieval result is obtained in the event that the thumb-nail image is needed in accordance with

the set up result as to whether there is a need to inform the user by the electronic mail registered

with said retrieval management table.

4.   (original): A contents retrieval program storage medium storing a contents

retrieval program for forming a contents retrieval system on a computer system, said contents

retrieval system comprising:

retrieval request receiving means for receiving a retrieval request of contents on a communication network from a user accessing through the communication network, and setting up processing conditions for retrieval processing in accordance with the retrieval request, and further issuing a reservation number of the retrieval processing and informing the user of the reservation number, and in addition applying the reservation number to the processing conditions and registering the same with a predetermined retrieval management table;

contents retrieval means for retrieving the contents on the communication network in accordance with the processing conditions registered with said retrieval management table and storing the retrieval result, together with the reservation number, in a predetermined retrieval result storage file; and

retrieval result providing means for retrieving a retrieval result associated with the reservation number from among the retrieval results stored in said retrieval result storage file, when an inquiry concerning the retrieval result is made from a user based on the reservation number, and providing the retrieval result for the user.

5.   (new): A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein a user establishes a connection to the network at a first log on wherein the retrieval request is made and the reservation number is issued; and

wherein a user establishes a connection to the network at a second log on wherein the retrieval result providing means provides the retrieval result for the user based on the reservation number.

6.   (new): A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, further comprising a

service menu, wherein the user is prompted to select between retrieving new information or

referring to a past retrieval as the retrieval request.

7.   (new): A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein a user is

prompted for a password and the reservation number when an inquiry concerning the retrieval

result is made.

8.   (new): A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein the reservation

number is initially registered with the predetermined retrieval management table at the time of

the retrieval request.

9.   (new): A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein a reservation

number is unique to each retrieval request.

10.   (new): A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a display, wherein said display displays said reservation number to the user.

11.   (new): A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of retrieval result storage files, wherein one of a plurality of retrieval result

storage files is created for each retrieval request.

12.   (new): A contents retrieval system according to claim 5, wherein the contents

retrieval means executes retrieval regardless of state of user network connection to the contents

retrieval means.

13.   (new): A contents retrieval system according to claim 12, wherein the communication network comprises an internet, and the contents retrieval means executes retrieval even when the user closes an internet browser to the internet.

14.   (new): A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein said retrieval request receiving means comprises a server, wherein said server issues said reservation number of the retrieval processing.

15.   (new): A contents retrieval program storage medium according to claim 4, wherein said retrieval request receiving means comprises a server, wherein said server issues said reservation number of the retrieval processing.